New Media Resources for Common Core - Non-Fiction & CCSS Alignment

One of the biggest explosions for children's content in the digital realm is in the genre of nonfiction and apps & eBooks aligned with US educational state standards for Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These lists help teachers align curriculum and teaching goals with apps and other digital content. Since teachers must plan their lessons with documentation to show common core tie-ins, using apps and other digital resources is often dependent upon not only the quality of the software but the ability to show how it fits into expected instruction for each subject.

For reference, the "Key Shifts for English/Language Arts" that impact children reading, include:

1. Regular practice with <u>complex texts</u> and their academic language
2. Reading, writing, and speaking <u>grounded in evidence from texts</u>, both literary and informational
3. <u>Building knowledge</u> through content-rich nonfiction

Content-Rich Non-Fiction is available in large quantities, especially in apps & eBooks, however evaluators need to have a steady eye on this new medium. When non-fiction is the source of digital information, the publisher and author/illustrator credits are more important than ever.

When evaluating non-fiction (print or digital), also consider different writing styles:

Expository (explains, describes, informs)
Narrative (reads like a story)
Poetic (present info through poems)
Descriptive (uses sensory details)
Persuasive (argues a position)

Additionally when reviewing digital titles, consider any links or scaffolding for learning that the interactive text may add to or detract from, for reading comprehension. Reading level information can also be useful, but may not be as critical for eBooks & apps that include assistive technology features like audio narration and word-for-word highlighting.

From WeAreTeachers.com - the following FIVE tips are recommend for evaluating non-fiction for common core use:

1. Choose High Interest Topics
2. Look for Openings for Discussion
3. Connect It to Kids' Lives
4. Opt for High-Impact Visuals

   5. Think About What Comes Next

http://www.weareteachers.com/hot-topics/special-reports/finding-quality-nonfiction-for-the-common-core

Resources:

School Library Journal - Best Apps for Teaching & Learning 2014:
http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-apps/2014

Common Core Explore from Common Sense Media - For Language Arts, Mathematics & Science:
https://www.graphite.org/standards/common-core

Best Apps for Teaching & Learning - AASL (American Association of School Libraries)
http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-apps

Digital-Storytime - Non Ficition Category: http://digital-storytime.com/top10.php?id=64

Common Core IRL (In Real Libraries) - Book Bloggers List By:
Alyson Beecher, district literacy specialist: Kid Lit Frenzy
Louise Capizzo, children's librarian: The Nonfiction Detectives
Travis Jonker, school librarian: 100 Scope Notes
Cathy Potter, school librarian: The Nonfiction Detectives
Mary Ann Scheuer, school librarian: Great Kid Books
http://greatkidbooks.blogspot.com/search/label/Common%20Core%20IRL

AppoLearning - Apps endorsed are curated & evaluated by a panel of teachers, parents, and app gurus. Every app is given a Report Card based on a proprietary "appoLearning" Rubric. Ratings are based on a number of factors, including Educational Content, Kid Appeal, Assessment, Features and Design, Value, and Safety and Privacy. https://www.appolearning.com/

Apps with Curriculum - AWC provides educators with a course of study for each app that is cross curricular in subject areas and involves technology with education. Every app also has alignment to Common Core Standards: http://appswithcurriculum.com/

Kirkus Reviews - Best Apps & eBooks of 2013 for Kids: https://www.kirkusreviews.com/lists/best-nonfiction-apps-and-e-books-of-2013-for-kids/megamammal-meg/

MomsWithApps - Discover Kids Apps (online tool):
https://momswithapps.com/discover

We Are Teachers - Finding Quality NonFiction for Common Core:
http://www.weareteachers.com/hot-topics/special-reports/finding-quality-nonfiction-for-the-common-core

MindShift Blog (KQED) - Apps That Rise to the Top: Tested and Approved By Teachers
http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/06/apps-that-rise-to-the-top-tested-and-approved-by-teachers/

Children's Non-Fiction Conference - http://www.childrensnfconference.com/

TeachThougt.com - Common Core Resources:
http://www.teachthought.com/teaching/50-common-core-resources-for-teachers/

10 apps and websites featuring Common Core resources for middle school:
http://www.amplify.com/viewpoints/10-apps-and-websites-featuring-common-core-resources-for-middle-school

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